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NSC BRIEFING

28 February 1956

INDONESIA

- I. Present middle-of-road Indonesian cabinet plans to assume caretaker status within next two weeks, when country's first elected parliament will be installed.
- II. Maneuvering over composition of successor cabinet continues among major non-Communist parties--Masjumi (which heads present cabinet), National Party (which leads opposition), and Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).
 - A. These three parties reportedly have agreed "in principle" to form tripartite coalition, but have not agreed either on program or on division of cabinet posts.
 - B. Masjumi, which suffered slump after running second in elections, appears to have regained some prestige through abrogation Netherlands-Indonesian Union (21 Feb).
 - C. Abrogation, combined with Masjumi endorsement of more nationalistic policies of party's astute vice chairman Sukiman (as contrasted to politically unskilled party chairman Natsir), reportedly lessening previous differences between Masjumi and other two parties.
- III. First formal effort toward formation new cabinet, therefore, probably will be attempt to form Masjumi-PNI-NU coalition.
 - A. Should these efforts be unsuccessful, the alternative of some PNI-NU-small party coalition will be explored and probably accepted.
 1. This would be return to so-called "Ali formula", which

could involve Communist parliamentary support for coalition.

IV. 257 elected seats in new parliament have been divided as follows:

- A. PNI: 59 seats (23%)
 - B. Masjumi: 58 seats (22%)
 - C. NU: 45 seats (17%): but NU "bloc" (known as "Moslem League", and including two minor Moslem parties) will have 57 seats (21%).
 - D. Communists: 39 seats (15%)
 - E. All others: 42 seats (16%)
- redraft on cards*

1. Most deputies in this category probably will associate themselves with one of the four major parties, rather than form an independent bloc.

V. Some 21 other deputies (who are to be appointed) have not yet been selected.

- A. Procedure of selection, formerly hot issue between Sukarno and cabinet, also not yet decided.
- B. Most probable outcome is amicable division of these extra seats among three non-Communist majors.

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- I. Present middle-of-road Indonesian cabinet plans to assume caretaker status within next two weeks, when country's first elected parliament will be installed.
- II. Maneuvering over composition of successor cabinet continues among three major non-Communist parties--Masjumi (which heads present cabinet), National Party (which leads opposition), and Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).
 - A. They reportedly have agreed "in principle" to form tripartite coalition.
 1. Have not yet approached such practical problems as government program, or division of cabinet posts.

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- B. Masjumi, which suffered slump after running behind PNI in elections, appears to have regained some prestige through abrogation Netherlands-Indonesian Union (21 Feb).
- C. This action, combined with Masjumi endorsement of more nationalistic policies of party's astute vice chairman Sukiman (as contrasted to politically unskilled party chairman Natsir), reportedly lessening previous differences between Masjumi and other two parties.

III. First formal effort at new cabinet, therefore, probably will be attempt at Masjumi-PNI-NU coalition.

- A. Should this fail, alternative of some PNI-NU-small party coalition will be explored, probably accepted.

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B. This would be return to so-called "All formula", which could involve Communist parliamentary support for coalition.

IV. 257 elected seats in new parliament have been divided as follows:

A. PNI: 59 seats: minor parties' support adds 10 seats for total 69.

B. Masjumi: 58 seats: minor parties' support adds 25 seats for total 83.

C. NU: 45 seats: NU "bloc" (known as "Moslem League") adds 12 seats for total 57.

D. Communists: 39 seats: minor parties' support adds 3 seats for total 42.

E. Other minor parties: 6 seats.

V. Some 21 other deputies (who are to be appointed) have not yet been selected.

A. Procedure of selection, formerly

hot issue between Sukarno and cabinet, also not yet decided.

B. Most probable outcome is amicable division of these extra seats among three non-Communist majors.

VI. Meanwhile, Vice President Hatta--strong anti-Communist and probably most informed and balanced individual in Indonesian government--has decided to resign.

A. Plans to combat Communism as private citizen, by means of "cooperative movement" which, under his own guidance, is spreading fairly rapidly in Indonesian villages.

B. Resignation removes a restraining, although decreasingly effective, influence on President Sukarno--who believes he can use Communists for his own political purposes, discard them as he chooses.

BACKGROUND--INDONESIA

A. Tentative Line-Up of Parties

1. National Party (PNI) 57
Pantjasila (merged) 2
 59

PRN 2
 Labor 2
 PRI 2
 PRIM 1
 Desa 1
 PIR 1
 Permai 1
 10

PNI & Supporting Parties: 10
 69

2. Masjumi 57
AKUI (merged) 1
 58

Christian 8
 Catholic 6
 Socialist 5
 IPKI (army) 4
 PPTI 1
 PIR 1
 25

Masj & Supporting Parties: 25
 83

3. Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) 45
PSII 8
PERTI 4
 57

4. Communist Party (PKI) 39
Murba 2
AKOMA 1
 42

5. Minors of Unknown Alignment

Police	2
Sudjono	1
Baperki	1
Gerinda	1
Dayak	1
	<u>6</u>

B. Parliamentary Breakdown by major parties
(elected seats)

National Party	59
Masjumi	38
Nahdlatul Ulama	45
Communist Party	39
All Others	56
TOTAL	<u>257</u>